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(Incorporating Gram Sevak)

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PAYMENT TO CONTRIBUTORS

To encourage readers of Panchayati Raj to share with their friends their thoughts, experiences and achievements in the field of Community Development, Cooperatives and Panchayats, it has been decided to pay for letters and contributions appearing in this journal with effect from March, 1961. The payment will be made at the rate of Rs. 5 for each letter and about Rs. 10 for each accepted article. Readers are requested to write articles and letters on subjects of common interest and to address them to :

The Editor, Panchayati Raj,
Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation,
371, Krishi Bhavan,
New Delhi.

PANCHAYATI RAJ—TESTS OF SUCCESS

ANDHRA, Madras and Mysore in the South, Rajasthan in the North, Assam in the East. And now the State of Orissa comes into the fold of Panchayati Raj. Other States in India are in the process of implementing the programme of Panchayati Raj or enacting the requisite legislation. Panchayati Raj will soon be the pattern of administration from the village upwards.

Panchayati Raj however is no talisman. Panchayati Raj must have the new leadership as can evoke the collective faith and loyalty of the people, as can provide a common cause to which all can combine in a spirit of dedication. But mobilisation of the people is not good enough. What is equally called for simultaneously, is the mobilisation of the entire Government machinery and its progressive consolidation as an instrument of action both administrative and technical which will be sharp enough to cut across any problems that face the people. It will be readily seen that Panchayati Raj can succeed only to the extent to which the new leadership is there and the Government agency has risen in stature in the direction indicated. Not all the enthusiasm in the world can be a substitute for efficiency in the administrative and technical apparatus and leadership in the representatives of the people.

Panchayati Raj in the final analysis will be judged by the extent to which :

I. it is promoting leadership from the grass-roots;

II. it is creating competence in people for progressive management of their own affairs by themselves;

III. the higher organs of Government have been relieved of routine responsibilities and been left free to deal with matters of high policies;

IV. resources, human and material, are being released for national construction and utilised to optimum advantage.

May Panchayati Raj in Orissa come out with flying colours in all the tests laid down above.

(Text of the Message by Shri S. K. Dey, Minister for Community Development and Cooperation, on the occasion of the inauguration of Panchayati Raj in Orissa State, on January 26, 1961).

GLIMPSES OF PANCHAYATI RAJ IN RAJASTHAN-3

VIDUR

ONE OF THE shortcomings of the C.D. programme often pointed out is that it is only the well-to-do and richer sections of the village community which have reaped benefits from the various activities and that the weaker sections have not been able to gain materially. How far has the Panchayati Raj pattern been able to arrest this unhealthy trend? Doubts have been expressed that since the Panchayats are largely composed of members belonging to the so-called upper caste, the scheduled caste who are landless and resourceless will go to the wall. In the Rajasthan Panchayat Samitis at present only two seats are reserved for the scheduled caste. But this number is soon going to be doubled. However it is not the number of seats that matters. It is how the Panchayat members feel and whether they are prepared to help their less fortunate brethren. I found they were eager to do so. Besides the amount allocated for being spent exclusively on scheduled caste welfare, a sizable portion out of the Panchayat Samiti funds meant for common good is being utilised for the welfare of the weaker sections. It was reassuring to observe that a majority of the model houses built under the Rural Housing Scheme belonged to the Harijans. In one of the villages I visited 20 out of 24 model houses have been built for them. Sincere efforts are being made to improve their economic condition. Out of 4 mobile Training Centres working in Srinagar Panchayat Samiti area, two are exclusively devoted to the training of Harijan artisans in tanning and weaving. Some of the Panchayats are advancing agricultural loans for seeds and fertilisers in kind to landless tenants without insisting on any security. It is learnt that the Rajasthan State Government has decided to allot available surplus land to cultivating tenants and has appointed a committee consisting of the Tehsildar, the B.D.O. and the Pradhan to implement the same.

EFFECTIVE ORGANISATION

The secret of the successful working of the Panchayats in Rajasthan lies in the building up of an effective organisation and creating strong basic institutions no less than the right approach that the officials as well as the elected representatives have brought to bear on the issue as a whole. The bold initiative that the State Government has shown in implementing the scheme is no doubt creditworthy. An underlying factor in evoking ready response from the people and making them fit to undertake the new responsibilities is that the State Government has adopted Hindi as the official medium of communication and has brought out a good deal of literature on the subject.

The centre of activity in the present three tier system in Rajasthan is the Panchayat Samiti at the intermediary level. The Panchayat Samiti has been made the supreme body in so far as welfare and development activities in the Block are concerned. All the money required to be spent by the various Government departments has been pooled and placed at the disposal of the Samiti. The yearly budget goes up to Rs. 12 lakhs or so. The entire Government staff working in the Block area, except the Revenue staff has been placed under the control of the Samiti. The number of personnel working in the Block is about 300. The Zila Parishad at the district level is largely a deliberative body and is concerned with the overall planning and budgeting for the whole district. Its exact functioning has not crystallised so far. There seems to be some sort of a tussle for more powers for it. Whether or not more powers are justifiably needed for Zila Parishad, time alone would decide. After all, it is an experiment and things have to be learnt through trial and error method. At the base, the village Panchayats form the units of planning and execution. Planning from below has been

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tried with some success while preparing the third Five Year Plan. The draft Plans in Hindi prepared by the Jhotwara and Srinagar Panchayat Samitis speak well of the planning capacity and the earnest efforts of the Samiti members. Some of the village Panchayats have got village Production programmes based on family plans.

For effective execution of various programmes at the Samiti and village levels, a fool-proof method of holding meetings on fixed dates has been evolved so that proper coordination is maintained between various cogs of the wheel and development work goes on smoothly. Here is a monthly schedule of working in Srinagar Panchayat Samiti area. The Gram Sabha meeting in which all adult persons take part is held on 11th and 12th and briefs the Panches about their requirements. The Panchayat then meets on 26th and 27th and decides about the development schemes they propose to undertake. Applications for loans for various purposes from individuals are also collected on which are taken the necessary reports of the Gram Sevak and the Patwari who are required to attend the meeting compulsorily. The Sarpanches take with them the Panchayat proposals for development works and applications for loans, when they go to attend the Samiti meeting on 22nd and 23rd of every month. The Standing Committees of the Samiti hold their meetings on 6th and submit their decisions in time for discussion by the Samiti. The Samiti decides cases of loans and grants-in-aid to individuals as well as villages. The Sarpanches carry back these decisions and intimate the persons concerned. The Vikas Adhikari or an official appointed by him then visits the village and distributes the money to the party concerned within a specified time-limit.

This system is working so well that there is no complaint of delay or corruption from any quarter. An applicant gets loan at his doorsteps within a month of the date of the submission of the application. Seeds and fertilisers are purchased by the standing committee on agriculture and stocked with the village cooperatives 3 to 4 months in advance of their requirements. Though the revenue staff has not been merged with the development department, the Patwari has been instructed by the Collector to attend all meetings of the village Panchayat and extend his full cooperation. The Sarpanches have been authorised to attest mutation of land transfers. This has removed one of the basic causes of corruption and hardship to the cultivators. Little wonder that there are few grievances and fewer complaints.

The placing of schools under the control of Panchayat Samiti has proved quite useful. The Panchayats have striven to increase the number of children in schools. The attendance of teachers has also improved and they are taking more interest in their work. By making the night halts of school teachers in the village essential, it has been possible to take advantage of their services for adult education. The school is now becoming a focus of development activities and is being increasingly used as community centre.

OFFICIALS AND NON-OFFICIALS—RELATIONSHIP

The administrative relationship between the officials and non-officials seems to be working out satisfactorily. I found that in both the Blocks, the relations between the service personnel and the elected representatives are cordial and they work in cooperation with each other. By giving the Pradhan a higher status and authorising him to write the confidential report of the B.D.O., the supremacy of the people has been conceded. This has resulted in winning the confidence of the people and preventing the service personnel from acting in an arbitrary and thoughtless manner. At the same time, by making the B.D.O. the Chief Executive responsible for the effective planning and execution of the programme through the Block staff placed under his charge, the initiative and tempo of the work have been ensured. During my discussions with the Rajasthan State Secretariat officials, as I was describing the existing good relations between the

(*Continued on page* 16)

LETTERS

Helping the Weaker Section

Sir,

At long last, it has been realised that one of the main defects of the C.D. Programme is that it benefits only a few people who are already resourceful. However, it is never too late to mend. To counteract this tendency, efforts should be made to concentrate on such schemes as have been found practicable in the existing agrarian conditions by maximum number of cultivators. One such scheme, which next to the facility of irrigation from canals and tubewells, has benefited the maximum number of small cultivators, is the replacement of Kharif millets and low-yielding "sathi" by the very high yielding N 22 early paddy variety. This has been made possible in U.P. by widespread arrangements during the last three years to supply at the Block level 5 per cent B.H.C. dust to control the Gundhi bug. Even the smallest cultivator, who could not afford tubewell irrigation and raised his crop with the help of his dhenkal in the tubewell commanded area, bought gamexene on cash to prevent the gundhi bug from eating away his plentiful crop. If supplies of this insecticide to control the gundhi pest are ensured at the village level, almost every cultivator would benefit from the Programme and Kharif production in rice growing areas will go up considerably in spite of the vagaries of the Monsoons.

7-11-1960 Yours etc.
P. L. Vacher,
B.D.O.
Lar (Dist. Deoria),
U.P.

Political Parties in Panchayats

Sir,

Party politics has begun to play a big role in the working of the Panchayats and Samitis. This is an undesirable development in village life. More energy is wasted by the factions in manoeuvres against each other than in welfare work. One of the causes of these factions is party politics. Because there is a Congress party the opposition party puts up a rival leadership. In the tussle between the two, the work suffers. What have these political parties got to do with the working of village Panchayats? It is not that, only a particular party would feel the need of wells, dispensary, street lighting, sanitary measures etc. It appears that there is no reason why political parties should use panchayats as a political forum. However, there is a view that in order to sponsor village leadership the political parties should function at panchayat level also. I do not agree with this. In every village there are some persons whom the villagers look up to as their leaders. What the political parties do is to drag them in their net, and when some of them join one party, the rest join the other, and thus the factions and rivalries start. The only thing that the political parties achieve by functioning at panchayat level is to promote factions. I doubt as to how many villagers would be able to tell the difference between one party's principles and that of the other. It would be a lot better if the political parties leave the Panchayats and Samities alone.

4-11-1960 Yours etc.
Jaglbet, *V. D. Malgavkar.*
Via Londa.

The Human Resources

Sir,

The description of village Kinnar Kheda in Porbander C.D. block in Gujerat appearing in the October issue of Panchayati Raj has astounded me. If all our blocks were to follow that example, India would have won a status in the international field, surpassable not even by the developed countries of the West.

The example of sarpanch Mrs. Kaushalya Sharma has made me feel proud as an Indian citizen. If women had followed her example, the condition of our country would have been quite different.

There is no dearth in India of human resources. What they need is a word of

encouragement at the proper time. Women should contest panchayat elections. They should even stand for the president's election. At least half of the seats must be occupied by women. Moreover, in every panchayat village, there should be an Advisory Board nominated by the president. It should consist of respectable and intelligent people to advise the panchayats on difficult problems.

10-12-1960 Yours etc.
Kerala. *B. Mathews.*

Stepmotherly Treatment

Sir,

In the past, the main activity of the Cooperatives used to be the disbursing of loans to the peasants. It is only recently that genuine efforts have been made to place the Cooperative movement in its proper place. It is desired to reorient the primary village Credit Societies into Service Cooperatives dealing with different kinds of services and supplies affecting the village economy. But the changeover is not making enough headway due to the conservative mentality of the officials of the department who, it seems, have not outgrown the legacy of the past. I have personally seen a few cases where no effort was made to improve the condition of the societies which had become all but defunct. I asked the supervisors of the area why they were not making effort in this regard even though people were willing to seek their guidance for expanding the scope of activities. Their stock reply was that they had been ordered only to collect loans from the societies and that educating them for other activities was not their task. I told them that I would help them in educating the villagers and getting them ready in larger numbers to undertake diversified activities. But they got offended and thought that I was perhaps imposing myself on them. They complained to the Assistant Registrar against me. I explained the whole position to him. But my offer went unheeded. I doubt if the cooperative movement would make much headway with such a step-motherly attitude of the departmental officers towards the all-important educational aspect.

20-10-60 Yours etc.
Mahendra Pratap Singh.
Palamau, Bihar.

Village Cattle Show

Sir,

The Government of Andhra Pradesh ordered us to celebrate Panchayat Raj's first anniversary on first November when the State itself was born. According to the instructions issued by the Panchayat President and the B.D.O. Narasaunapet Panchayat Samithi a grand function was to be held and a small "Cattle Show" was also to be arranged on the occasion. By 10-30 a.m. the Cattle Show had to be opened. But till 10-00 a.m. no cattle was brought to the show. Every body frowned on me for arranging the cattle show in the village. Even my officers thought that it was a ridiculous thing to organise a cattle show in the village. I thought that I had perhaps taken a wrong step in arranging the cattle show.

But I thought of an extension method and requested the Panchayat President to bring the Panchayat Gugole bull and the Buffalo bull. Accordingly he brought them along with his cattle. A few minutes later all the important types of cattle in the village including poultry, piggery, sheep and goat were brought to the show by their owners. The rush was so great that we could not control it. The villagers themselves came forward and asked us to arrange competition for cattle, keeping in view two separate qualities for draught and milk yield. They themselves conducted it and evinced so much interest that we had to increase the number of prizes. The cattle show proved very educative since they learnt from the Prize winners about the secret of their feeding and looking after the cattle.

The cattle show which would have proved a flop turned into a glorious success because of the proper handling of the situation. A suitable extension method adopted with the right approach at the right time provides the village worker with a magic wand that solves even the most complicated problem.

Yours etc.,
D.L. Puram, *P. J. Nathrow.*
Andhra Pradesh.
S.K.L. District.

A Peasant and A Weaver

RAJAN

Shri S. S. Patil

I MET Shri Shridhar Sakharam Patil in the Panchayatghar of Nandore, a small Adivasi village in Palghar block of Maharashtra State. The B.D.O., Shri Kulkarni, introduced him to me as the Sarpanch of the village Panchayat.

"But surely, you are not an Adivasi", I remarked.

Shri Patil was too polished and well-dressed to be mistaken for an Adivasi. He was conversing with me in English, and his dress and mannerism betrayed that he belonged to a very prosperous family.

"I am not an Adivasi by birth, but an humble servant of theirs. In a village of 850 souls, 800 of them Adivasis, I have been unanimously elected as the Sarpanch, perhaps because they consider me a near kith and kin," Shri Patil replied.

And it did not take me long to find the secret of his popularity. Till a decade or so before, Shri Patil was an ordinary peasant, not very much different from the other Adivasis in his village. Then, with his brother, he purchased fifty acres of barren land from the Government at nominal price. By sheer dint of labour and with the cooperation of the Agriculture and the C.D. Departments, he slowly improved his land and put up an orchard in part of the area. For irrigation, he constructed a small dam across the channel running through his fields, and installed an engine on his well. In the beginning, his produce was only about 4 mds. of paddy per acre, but by the application of intensive doses of manure and deeper ploughing it gradually improved to reach the figure of 40 mds. an acre. His orchard also developed and it has at present 400 trees of Chikoo, 500 of mangoes and 100 of Guavas, yielding him an annual income of about Rs. 30,000. He also sells about 1,000 grafts a year.

Shri Patil proudly showed me scores of gold and silver medals which he had won at numerous exhibitions and competitions and a cow-dung gas plant, which he had put up in his house at a cost of about Rs. 2,500 to provide sufficient lighting and gas for his 6 roomed house and 4 ovens in the kitchen, at no recurring cost.

Success earned the hard way did not turn the head of Shri Patil, who thought of improving the lot of the Adivasis by initiating them into the secrets of improved methods of cultivation. The Adivasis had not heard the names of chemical fertilisers or improved strains of paddy. Shri Patil distributed improved seeds, sometimes free, to the whole village, popularised compost pits, organised a service cooperative, a library and a school, built a beautiful Panchayatghar with community labour and laid out a children's park. He has now, in consultation with the Gram Sabha, prepared a Five Year Plan for the further development of the village and its transformation into one of the most picturesque sights in the suburbs of Bombay. The Five Year Plan envisages the acquisition of about 80 acres of common village land on which will be constructed a community centre, a cooperative store godown, public tank, cooperative rice mill, temple, housing colony, agricultural school, etc.

Truly, therefore, the Adivasis of Nandore call Patil, the Thakkar Bapa of the village.

* * *

Shri M. N. Subanna

KEDAVINAHOSAHALLI is a village under Holenarsipura block in Mysore State. It is situated on the banks of the sacred river Hemavathi. An anicut across this river irrigated about 10,000 acres of land on both sides of the river. Kedavinahosahalli village was, however, denied this privilege as it was situated on a ridge, at a higher level from the channel.

A weaver, M. N. Subanna by name, owned about two

acres of dry land in this village. The poor produce of this unirrigated land was hardly sufficient to give even one meal a day to his small family.

Moved by the sight of his famished children, Subanna often stood gazing at the flowing waters of the river Hemavathi. Could'nt a portion of this life-giving fluid be lifted up to irrigate the thirsty lands in his village ?

He met Shri S. Neelakantappa, the Executive Engineer of his district. Shri Neelakantappa assured him that it could be done by installing two 40 H.P. pumping sets to lift water through a single delivery pipe line of about 12 in. diameter. But the whole scheme would require an investment of about Rs. 35,000. From where was this money to be secured? Certainly, the starving peasants of the village could not imagine of collecting this huge amount.

Subanna thought of a plan. With the help of Shri Chandappa Patel, Deputy Commissioner of the district and another friend, Shri Thimmappa, of his village, he organised a Lift Irrigation Cooperative Society. All the families in the village joined it. The Society obtained a loan from the District Central Cooperative Bank, Hassan, on the security of 120 acres of land in the village.

The major problem of money having been solved, Subanna, now organised the community for excavating the reservoir, digging field-channels, laying pipe lines and erecting the machines. The entire population of the village joined together and completed the task in a period of less than three months. The first shovel of mud was dug on March 4, 1960, and on June 16, the same year, Shri M. Vasudeva Rao, Divisional Commissioner of Mysore, declared the works open.

As power is available in the night only, an earthen reservoir with dimensions of 240 ft.×240 ft.×6 ft. has been constructed at the highest point in the centre of the village. It can hold enough water to irrigate 120 acres of paddy by the day.

With the formation of the society, it is expected that the production of paddy will increase by at least ten times and the value of land will go up by as much. The members hope to pay back the entire loan within a period of 5 years.

Subanna still owns his two acres of land in the village, but his own and his neighbour's children now greet him with the giggling cry, "Bhagirath Aya, Bhagirath Aya". And truly, Subanna has proved another Bhagirath for his village Kedavinahosahalli.

PRIZES FOR BOOKS ON COOPERATION

To encourage the production of books and literature dealing with important aspects of the cooperative movement, the Government of India, Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation have decided to award prizes to authors and to purchase the copyright of books on specific subjects. The books are to be used by field workers, officials of cooperative societies and those interested in Cooperation.

Following is the list of titles: (i) cooperative farming; (ii) operation and management of a cooperative marketing society; (iii) procedures and account keeping in village cooperative society; (iv) consumers' cooperative society; (v) guide to cooperation for the Village Level Worker; (vi) stories of successful cooperatives; and (vii) a drama bringing out the benefits of cooperative credit.

The last date for receipt of entries is March 31, 1961.

Authors who wish to participate in the scheme may apply to, or contact the Section Officer (Cooperation Training), Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation, Department of Cooperation, Room No. 465-A, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi, for the synopsis of books mentioned above and for rules governing the award of prizes.

COOPERATIVES ALL

Cooperation is a way of life. It permeates all strata of society and all spheres of human activity. The more activities we organise on cooperative basis, the stronger and more secure the foundations of Sahkari Samaj we lay. Step by step we advance to the society of our dreams where distinction between the rich and the poor ceases, where there are no middlemen, no exploiters,—all are workers worth their salt.

DEATH BENEFIT FUND

THE EMPLOYEES of the Indian Airlines Corporation have organized a unique society to arrange financial assistance to the grieved family members in the event of a member's death. The society was registered in February, 1960 with 20 promoter members and a subscription of Rs. 20 as the initial capital. The funds of the society are composed of subscription from members, donations and grants. Every member has to pay an advance subscription of Re. 1 on admission and a subscription of Re. 1 per death subsequently. The funds are to be utilised by the Managing Committee for giving financial assistance to the nominee of its deceased member to the extent it may decide. By June '60, the membership of the society had arisen to 534 and its funds to Rs. 1,152.

* * *

THE EXPLOITED RICKSHAW PULLERS RESCUED

THE RICKSHAW PULLERS, exploited as they were by the owners of the rickshaws, organised this society in July '55 with a membership of 15 and a share capital of Rs. 75. The objectives of the society include promotion of ownership rights of rickshaws given to the members on rent for plying. The society has come to own a large fleet of cycle-rickshaws and gives them on nominal rent of Rs. 11 per month per cycle rickshaw to the members. At the moment, the society has a membership of 430, a share capital of Rs. 40,250 and assets of rickshaws valuing over Rs. 1 lakh. The society has lately added auto-rickshaws and gets licences for plying them. The society is also running a repair workshop as an adjunct to its main activity of plying rickshaws. In addition to rickshaws the society also provides uniforms, medical help and education to its members. The society is also contemplating construction of a hostel for its members. The rise in membership and funds of the society are an indication of its popularity amongst its members.

* * *

JOBLESS COFFEE HOUSE WORKERS

ON THE WINDING UP of a Coffee House in New Delhi in the year 1957, its workers organized themselves into a cooperative society. There were 32 promoter members at the time of the registration of the society and the share capital was Rs. 3,201. During the short span of its life the society has made remarkable progress. On 30th June '60 the share capital of the society exceeded Rs. 20,000. At present the society is running 4 shops in Delhi, one at Lucknow and another at Simla. The society has resolved not to pay less than Rs. 85 per month to any of its member worker. This has naturally resulted in the improvement of economic condition of the members.

* * *

CO-OPS FOR SOCIAL & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

THE DRAMATISTS, the writers, and other residents of Delhi interested in social and cultural activities have organized several cooperative societies for running schools, performing dramas, writing and printing books, periodicals etc. Even the sophisticated residents of Golf Link in New Delhi have found themselves attracted to form a co-operative society to construct a Community Hall and organize cultural and social activities amongst them. Lastly, there has come a proposal for registering a society which should undertake publishing and printing of a daily newspaper whose policy would be

to propagate the ideals of the cooperative commonwealth.

* * *

COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOLS

WITH THE INCREASE in population of the rapidly growing cities and industrial towns of India the demand for Play or Nursery Schools for children of the age group 4 to 6 years has increased considerably amongst the middle class people in recent years. The Union Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation has, therefore, drawn up a tentative scheme envisaging the building up of a Cooperative Sector for running nursery schools in different parts of the country.

It has been suggested that a few Cooperative Nursery schools may be taken up in government employees' colonies, Industrial establishments or other suitable areas in important cities and big industrial towns amongst middle class communities having such common needs. Parents, in need of such educational facilities for their children, will form themselves into cooperative societies and start Nursery schools. It is considered necessary that the nursery school to pay its way should have about 200 children in 8 groups. A group may have about 25 children as the maximum under a teacher. Well-qualified teachers may be found amongst the mothers of the children themselves or other female population in the areas concerned who may be willing to offer their services at a reasonable remuneration, if not free altogether. The parents who will organize the society will no doubt be the owners of the cooperative nursery schools but teachers also should be admitted as members to create a feeling of common interest amongst them. In the Managing Committee there should be adequate representation of teacher members. This will create a better climate of understanding between the teaching staff and the parents. The parents will contribute to the share-capital of the society a reasonable amount and pay admission fees. The share-capital to be contributed should be fully paid up. The liability of a member may be 2 or 3 times the value of the shares purchased. This will enable the society to obtain temporary advances from outside if necessary. The shares of the parents of the outgoing children should be transferable to the parents of the incoming children. The society must aim at running the school on a self-supporting basis keeping in view the reasonableness of the fees charged and the capacity of the parents to pay. It is expected that with the cooperation of the teachers and the parents—such cooperative Nursery schools would be in a position to ensure a standard of education to the satisfaction of the parents. The teachers will also gain in the long run in remuneration when the school is well established through their sincere collaboration.

The finance involved in running such a school of moderate size with a capacity for 200 children studying in 8 groups of 25 each, has been roughly estimated as follows:

Recurring monthly expenditure on the teaching staff of 7 teachers, one principal, 3 peons and ayas, 1 sweeper, contingencies and House rent—Rs. 1,500.

Non-recurring expenditure in the 1st year for equipment, furniture, school accessories, toys, books etc.—Rs. 2,000.

Monthly income from school fees at the rate of Rs. 8 per month per child on an average (ranging between Rs. 6 to 10) for 200 children —Rs. 1,600.

Share contribution from the sale of 200 shares at Rs. 10 each Rs. 2,000.

FAMILY PLANNING

Some Questions and Answers

Too much emphasis cannot be laid on the urgent necessity of Family Planning in the context of the present food shortage in the country and the low living standards prevalent especially in the country-side. No effort, therefore, should be spared by our field workers, Gram Sevaks, Gram Sahayaks, Panches and Pradhans to popularise the scheme. While dealing with the people, they are faced with a number of queries. It is on the correctness and thoroughness of their replies that their capacity and effectiveness to influence the people depends. Consequently we reproduce below from the "Family Planning News" a few Questions and Answers on the subject with which every field worker must be fully acquainted :—

Q. What is the aim of Family Planning?

A. The main aim at present is to reduce the rate of growth of the population and to ensure happier, healthier and fuller family living. The standard of living, education etc. in a large family is likely to be lower than that in a smaller family.

Q. Where can we get free advice on Family Planning?

A. The nearest Family Planning Clinic receiving assistance from the Government of India. In case there is no such clinic in your area seek advice from the Officer-in-charge of the Government hospital or dispensary; M.C.H. Centre or Primary Health Centre or write to the State Family Planning Officer, Directorate of Medical and Health Services of your State.

Q. What are the family planning methods? Which one is the best?

A. The methods of conception control generally followed are:

(i) *by the woman;* (a) use of an occlusive cap combined with a chemical contraceptive, or use of a jelly with applicator or use of foam tablets alone; (b) rhythm method.

(ii) *by the man;* (a) use of a condom (thin rubber) or sheath (thick washable rubber) preferably combined with a chemical contraceptive; (b) withdrawal.

The combined method i.e. use of occlusive cap (generally diaphragm) and chemical spermicide by woman provides good protection. Condom is a good alternative where they are acceptable to both husband and wife. Foam tablets provide a reasonable degree of protection. It has the advantage of simplicity in its use.

Q. Can we rely on 'Rhythm method' alone?

A. No. If the cycles are regular, calculation of the safe period is simple. But often they vary. These calculations are difficult, especially during the puerperal, lactating and menopausal periods. Periodicity of menstrual cycles and therefore applicability of the rhythm method, can be disturbed by other factors like illness and emotional tension. The safe period method has, therefore, obvious limitations. Still it has its use. The method may be satisfactory for a woman whose periods are regular, whose safe periods have been carefully calculated (preferably with the assistance of a trained worker at a clinic) and who can properly follow it. The method may also be of value as a supplement to other contraceptive methods.

Q. Is there any method by which a couple can permanently limit the Family?

A. Yes, by operation.

The sterilization operation is however advised after a careful examination of each case on voluntary consent of both husband and wife. Sterilization should be resorted to only when a pregnancy must be permanently avoided. The surgical technique of sterilization involves no other alteration than the closing of a tiny tube, which prevents the meeting of the mature egg with the spermatozoa. It does not involve the mutilation of the sex glands in any way, and no organ is removed. The common belief that sterilization may cause a lessening of sex desire or sex response, or change in behaviour and personality, is entirely erroneous. The endocrine activities of the body cannot be impaired by the closure of the tubes.

THIS HAPPENED IN A VILLAGE

BARREN LAND TURNED INTO RICH PASTURE

RAJ NARAIN GUPTA

SINGANAYAKANA is a small village in Yelahanka block of Mysore State. It has a population of about 100 families, mostly poor, for the cultivable land in the village is dry and largely unirrigated. For the same reason, though this village, like others, had a Panchayat of its own to manage local affairs, it had hardly any resources to take up developmental plans. What then were the newly elected Panches to do to satisfy the urges of the people? They sat together to take joint counsel.

There was a common grazing land, measuring about 120 acres, in the village. This land belonged to the Panchayat, but as it was barren, it did not yield any income.

The Panchayat in consultation with the Block officials formulated a Plan to develop this land. It was brought to its notice that the Hasargatta Composite Live-stock Farm in Bangalore had carried out successful experiments with a special type of grass known as thinnapier grass, very suitable as a fodder for cattle, which could well grow on dry and partly irrigated land. The Panchayat decided to try the cultivation of this grass on its barren gomal* land.

But how were the village people to be enthused for preparing the common land, rocky, uneven and full of stray thorny shrubs for growing this grass? The Panchayat had no resources to employ paid labour.

The Panches thought of a plan. They decided to lease out the use of the common village land to each family in the village, on the basis of one acre of land per ten heads of cattle in the family. The family was to develop its share of land. The draught resisting thinnapier grass seed was to be provided by the Panchayat. About eight pounds of this seed, costing Rs. 20 were sufficient to provide four cuttings of fodder per year, without any need for replanting. The yield was estimated at two to three thousand pounds per cutting. In terms of value, this was to mean an increase in the family income by about Rs. 2,000 per year, for each acre of land thus cultivated.

It was further pointed out by the Block officials of the village that at the periphery of each acre of gomal land could be sown quick growing fuel trees, such as Eucalyptus and Mohwa. These could provide enough fuel for the need of the family, as also some surplus for sale.

The prospect of an increase in the family income of the poor peasants of Singanayakana was too good a proposition not to attract the attention of the people. They all met together and discussed the plan with the Panches. The Sarpanch asked the villagers, if their income increased, would they mind making the Panchayat a small partner in the additional yield? The reply was unanimous; we would

(*Continued on page 16*)

MODEL SCHOOL FOR BLIND CHILDREN

The Ministry of Education, Government of India have set up a Model School for the Blind Children at Dehra Dun. This school was opened in January, 1959 and there are 34 children studying at present. The school imparts education to blind children upto the Vth Primary stage. Admission will be open to children between the ages 7-11 in the primary stage. Very soon, the school will be raised to the Secondary status.

The inmates of this school are provided with free board, lodging, clothing and tuition. Further particulars and application forms may be had from the Principal, Model School for the Blind Children, 230, Rajpur Road, Post Office, Dehra Dun. If called for interview the children will be expected to present themselves to the Principal at their own expense.

**Gomal land means village common land used for grazing of cattle.*

AROUND THE STATES

ANDHRA PRADESH

Fish culture in villages

The Andhra Pradesh Government have circulated to the Block Samitis, a model scheme for development of inland fisheries in block areas. It has requested the Block Samitis to select at least one tank in each Gram Sevak's circle in their jurisdiction as a first step, and develop and demonstrate fish culture, with a view to disseminating knowledge of fish rearing on scientific lines. The object is to rouse the enthusiasm of the members of the public interested in fish culture.

MYSORE

Service Cooperatives

The whole of Mysore State will have been covered by the scheme of service co-operatives by the end of March 1962. Since November 1959, about 3,000 service co-operatives have been established in the State by the conversion of village and credit societies. The programme is to have one service co-operative for each village panchayat group.

A uniform procedure governing the convening of the annual general body meetings and the election of office-bearers has been evolved under the new Co-operative Societies Act which came into force on June 1, 1960.

PUNJAB

Co-op. Development

The Punjab Government aims at enrolling 8.18 lakhs of new members to bring 80 per cent of the rural population of the State, covering 20,898 villages, into the co-operative fold during the Third Plan period. For the development of co-operatives, the Government has provided Rs. 4.50 crores in the Third Plan and has earmarked another Rs. 2.65 crores for their expansion.

Steps have been taken to convert the existing 8,870 co-operative societies into service co-operatives and for organizing 1,160 new service co-operatives.

At the close of the Second Plan period in March, the State will have a total of over 30,000 co-operatives of various types. By the end of the financial year, 1960-61, at least 85 per cent of the inhabited villages of the State and about 50 per cent of the rural population would have come into the fold of credit co-operative societies.

In the Third Plan period, it is proposed to construct 530 rural godowns to provide adequate storage facilities, 15 new primary marketing societies, 18 regional marketing societies and 23 processing societies. Co-operative farming has been assigned a vital role in the stepping up of agricultural produce. It is proposed to set up 20 pilot project areas, each consisting of 10 societies.

RAJASTHAN

First Bhil Woman as Sarpanch

For the first time in Rajasthan, a Bhil woman was elected sarpanch. The 25-year-old woman, Reshami, defeated her male rival, also a Bhil, in the Kushalpada village panchayat election in Benswara district. Rajput women turned up in thousands in this election to cast their votes.

UTTAR PRADESH

Zila Parishads to have Elected Presidents

The Uttar Pradesh Government have issued an ordinance amending the Antarim Zila Parishad Act and providing for the election of presidents (Adhyakshas) in place of District Magistrates, who were so far acting as presidents of the Antarim Zila Parishads. The president will be elected by all the members of the Antarim Parishad other than official members.

The ordinance provides that every person, whose name is entered as an elector from any area in the district electoral rolls for any legislative assembly constituency, shall be eligible for election as president. However a person who is a member of Parliament or of the State legislature or is an official member of the Parishad will not be eligible for contesting the election for presidentship.

The ordinance further provides that official members will have no right to vote at the meeting of the Parishads.

FROM THE CENTRE

NEW TECHNIQUES FOR VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

ADDRESSING A conference of representatives of Khadi and Village Industries Board of Rajasthan, the Prime Minister said that village industries should adopt new techniques and new methods. He said that even after 50 years, khadi and village industries would be necessary, but they would have to be run by power. Shri Nehru urged the people to adopt the benefits of modern science and technology and to take to the latest techniques of production so that the country could become strong and prosperous as early as possible.

* * *

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POLICY DECISIONS

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE on Community Development at a meeting held recently agreed that the programme of electrification should be accorded a very high priority in the plan for development of the rural areas. The Committee noted that even at the end of the Second Five Year Plan only 24,000 villages were expected to be electrified, bringing the total to 44,000. This was a very low figure, according to the Committee, out of 5½ lakh villages. The policy of decentralisation of industries and the adoption of improved methods of agricultural production would depend on the progress of rural electrification. The Committee urged that electricity rates had to be fixed at a reasonable level taking into consideration the economic condition of the rural consumer. It was decided that a Committee consisting of the Planning Commission and the Ministries concerned should examine the feasibility of taking a greater amount of power to rural areas within the overall physical allocation in the Third Plan. The Committee emphasised that the scheme of rural electrification should be viewed from the broader aspect of the psychological change in the peasant's outlook which it will bring about.

The Committee felt that the task of rural welfare should be progressively entrusted to the Panchayat institutions which should be the principal coordinating agencies. The basic principle that plans for social welfare could only be implemented if they were executed with the cooperation of the people's institutions like Panchayat Samitis, was emphasised. The Committee was of the view that funds for welfare extension projects and local works programmes should be operated through Panchayat institutions which should work with the help of non-official institutions in the field.

* * *

HIGHER TRAINING FOR GRAM SEVAKS

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA have decided to give two years' training to outstanding Gram Sevaks at rural institutes or agricultural institutes at Delhi where they would be awarded diplomas equivalent to a degree and promoted as extension officers. This is being done in order to overcome the lacuna that Extension officers should be graduates. At present arrangements are being made for training of 500 Gram Sevaks.

* * *

STUDY GROUP ON WELFARE OF WEAKER SECTIONS

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA have constituted a seven-man study group on the welfare of weaker sections of the village community, with Shri Jayaprakash Narayan as its chairman.

The group will study as to how far and in what manner the Community Development organization and Panchayati Raj institutions at the village, block and zila levels can promote the economic development and welfare of the weaker sections of the community. It will suggest measures by which the development schemes of the Central and State Governments and local authorities and the financial assistance available can be effectively utilized for the benefit of the weaker sections of the community.

Well Done Andhra Pradesh !

THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY of Panchayati Raj was celebrated in a befitting manner on November 1, 1960 throughout Andhra Pradesh. Unprecedented keenness and enthusiasm marked the celebrations. Each Panchayat village took up at least one work of community benefit.

Celebration Committees were set up in each Panchayat village consisting of not more than seven members with the Sarpanch of the Panchayat as Chairman and representatives of the Cooperative Society, village school and other social welfare organisations as members. These committees were responsible for not only selecting works in consultation with the people but also for following them up till their completion. Emphasis was laid on Health, Education, Minor Irrigation and Communications. Simple designs of school buildings were evolved and circulated amongst the village Panchayats for their guidance. This facilitated the pace of school building construction work, by reducing the cost and material in short supply. Similarly, a large number of drinking water wells were taken up for construction to satisfy the long-felt needs of the poorer sections of the community.

9,529 WORKS

In all 9,529 works estimated at a cost of Rs. 254.16 lakhs were taken up. The following is their break-up: (a) 2,824 village-roads; (b) 2,488 drinking water wells; (c) 1,226 school buildings; (d) 2,483 minor irrigation works; and (e) 508 drainage works. As much as Rs. 84.56 lakhs of the estimated cost have been contributed by the people themselves in the shape of cash, material and labour which comes to 33% of the total cost. In other Panchayats, activities like "Mid-Day Meals", planting of fruit trees, formation of Industrial Cooperatives and Adult Literacy Centres or Libraries were taken up. It is indeed gratifying to note that there was not a single Panchayat where some work or the other was not taken up on this occasion.

In Chowdepalli Panchayat Samiti, in Chittoor District, 28 minor irrigation works including an ayacut covering 630 acres were taken up for execution entirely by "Shramdan". Not a single Naya Paisa has been taken for this purpose either from the Samiti or Panchayat funds. 22 drinking water wells and 15 school buildings were also taken up on the same day. In addition to this, free "Mid-Day Meals" scheme was organised in 33 schools. 500 slates were distributed to school children coming from the poorer sections of the village community. In Kasimkota Panchayat Samiti in Visakhapatnam District, more than 1,100 fruit trees were planted. In Pulivendla Samiti three Leather Workers' Industrial Cooperatives were organised for the benefit of scheduled caste people. Construction of 23 tanning pits at a cost of Rs. 4,700 was taken up in Badvel Samiti of Cuddaph district by the people themselves. Jangaon Samiti of Warrangal district has taken up the construction of 50 drinking water wells thus meeting the drinking water needs of all its villages.

ZILA PARISHADS

The Zila Parishads also undertook similar works in Panchayat Villages in Blocks for which Panchayat Samitis have not yet been constituted. The Zila Parishad, Kurnool took up construction of 178 drinking water wells and 256 school buildings. The Zila Parishad, Medak took up construction of 277 drinking water wells, 224 village roads and 96 school buildings while Hyderabad Parishad took up execution of 145 drinking water wells and 64 school buildings. In Mahabubnagar Zila Parishad area, 335 village roads and 139 drinking water wells were taken up. The Parishad of Visakhapatnam took up construction of 213 drinking water wells, 238 village roads and 158 school buildings.

TRULY SPECTACULAR

The outstanding achievements of these popular organisations in the short period of one year are truly spectacular and augur well for the future. The fact that the Panchayats have proved equal to the occasion justifies

(*Continued on page* 15)

Community on the move

THE JAPANESE METHOD of paddy cultivation has caught on in the Nizamsagar Community Development area in Andhra Pradesh. The area under crops under the system has increased from 39,000 acres in 1953-54, when this method was first introduced, to 62,000 acres.

The average yield of paddy in the area is 50 per cent more than in the other areas, *i.e.*, 19 maunds per acre as against the average of 12 mds. This increase in yield has been brought about as a result of pre-treatment of seeds, use of improved seeds at a reduced rate, correct spacing and line planting, intercultivation, use of fertilisers and plant protection measures.

A factor that specially contributed to the increase in the yield is the use of rotary weeders, which are supplied at subsidised rates, and the supply of special Kharif and Rabi loans, in addition to the usual Taccavi loans for seeds and fertilisers.

A very large number of cultivators in the area are now purchasing their own rotary weeders, because they find that the reduced cost of weeding fully compensates for the extra expenditure involved in the purchase of improved seeds, the use of fertilizers and plant protection measures, and increases the yield.

OATH-TAKING BY PANCHES

MORE THAN 72,000 newly-elected Panches and Sarpanches from 13,423 panchayats in Punjab took the following pledge on December 21 last year, at a swearing-in ceremony held all over the State.

"I do swear in the name of God that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, that I will faithfully and conscientiously discharge my duties as a Sarpanch/Panch/Adalti Panch and that I will do right to all manner of people in accordance with the Constitution and the law without fear or favour, affection or ill-will."

Nearly 18,000 among these Panches and Sarpanches were Harijans. The recent panchayat elections in Punjab, it will be recalled, created history in the working of popular democracy because the percentage of votes polled was from 80 to 90 per cent against 48 per cent in the case of general elections. Nearly 35 per cent of the elections to panchayats were unopposed.

A MODEL COOPERATIVE SOCIETY

DUPADA IS a tiny village in Madhya Pradesh. Modern education and new ideas have not touched it up to this time. Yet the Harijan residents of the village have come together in a manner which suggests that the Co-operative instinct does exist in man since his birth. The instinct needs development and protection from hindrances. Before the decision on Co-operative farming was taken at the Nagpur Congress, these Harijan pioneers pooled their limited resources and started joint cultivation of the lands so pooled. In the first year their joint efforts resulted in the produce being sold for Rs. 5,755. This was a progressive return in comparison with individual labour, and inspired them to develop the work more systematically. Then they got their society registered in 1959 with a share capital of Rs. 4,349 and 213 Bighas of land. The membership of the Society is 16. Due to the pervading spirit of mutual help and understanding, the society is making considerable progress. It is now in a position to discharge its obligations to the creditors and stabilise its financial position.

WELL DONE ANDHRA PRADESH!

(Continued from page 14)

the progressive transfer of power to these people's bodies at various levels. It should prove as an eye-opener to many who still doubt the wisdom of entrusting these bodies with various functions which can legitimately be carried on by them.

GLIMPSES OF PANCHAYATI RAJ IN RAJASTHAN

(Continued from page 3)

officials and elected representatives, I was asked to take this situation with a pinch of salt. The apparently good relations between them, I was told, could also be due to the inefficiency and incapacity of the B.D.O. who does not want to annoy the Pradhan and earn a bad report from him. In such a situation, the B.D.O. may not be able to give the right advice and guidance to the Pradhan and prevent him from doing anything irregular or undesirable. It is for that matter that the State Government has now decided that officers not below the rank of State Civil Services should be appointed as B.D.Os. This decision if rigidly followed is likely to disturb some existing B.D.Os who though not belonging to any cadre, have been doing excellent work for the last several years. It is worth mentioning that in a recent competition organised by the State, the first five Panchayat Samitis that won the prize, have non-cadre B.D.Os. This goes to strengthen the belief held in many quarters that for achieving success in the development field we need workers imbued with a missionary spirit of service and an aptitude for rural work. How far this standard can be attained by civil service people is a matter for anyone's guess.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

As far as the financial resources of the village Panchayats and Panchayat Samitis are concerned, these do not seem to have come up very much. The annual income of Srinagar Panchayat Samiti from its various sources has been Rs. 60,000 only. The average income of the village Panchayat is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 1,000 per year. The Panchayats have been authorised to levy various taxes. But they seemed to be hesitant in implementing the proposals for taxation for fear of incurring popular displeasure. It is hoped that the Panchayats will make a move in this field now that the elections are over. Some of the Panchayats I visited complained that the possession of common wastelands and forests has not been properly given to them and therefore they have meagre sources of income. On enquiry from the State officials, I was informed that the procedural difficulties are being overcome and the demarcated common wastelands are being handed over to the Panchayats soon. Most of the elected representatives with whom I had a talk are in favour of having permanent sources of income. At present, the Panchayats generally collect contributions from the villagers for specific projects in order to make available the matching contribution required to secure the Government grant. This is good in so far as it goes. But the Panchayats will not come into their own unless they develop their own permanent resources to the extent that they are capable of undertaking schemes on their own, without having to collect contributions from time to time.

(Concluded)

BARREN LAND TURNED INTO RICH PASTURE

(Continued from page 11)

pay one-fourth of the increased income to the Panchayat, for it is after-all our own.

So, in June '60, the operation of 'Thinnapier Grass' started. The whole village turned out to develop its share of gomal land. The entire area was cleared of shrubs, ploughed and made even. Furrows were made across the slope to keep moisture intact. Seed was sown in August, soon after the rains.

When I visited the village in the first week of November last year, the Sarpanch told me, with a sense of justifiable pride: "In three months, the Panchayat's share in the additional yield from the gomal land is about Rs. 3,000. But much more than this, the Panches are happy because they have blazed the trail for an era of new prosperity in the village."

THE NEW LOOK ?

FREQUENT VISITS BY MINISTERS WOULD KEEP THE VILLAGE METICULOUSLY CLEAN

THE PRESENCE OF A CITYBRED GRAM SEVIKA WILL GO A LONG WAY IN MAKING THE VILLAGE DAMSELS FASHION CONSCIOUS

MORE POULTRY FARMS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WILL MEAN AN OCCASIONAL EGG FOR BREAKFAST

CHACHAJI'S ELECTION TO THE PANCHAYAT CALLS FOR A RADIO SET IN THE HOUSE

Elections to various Panchayat bodies have been held recently in States of Rajasthan, Punjab and Bihar. In the picture may be seen a group of men accompanied by women in veils who came to cast their votes at an election booth in Rajasthan.

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